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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**NOTE**

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from : the Presidency  
to : the Working Party on Terrorism

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Subject : Non-confidential report on the terrorism situation and trends in Europe

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Pursuant to the procedure set out in document 8466/2/01 ENFOPOL 41 REV 2 the Danish Presidency asked Europol to prepare a draft non-confidential report on the terrorism situation and trends in Europe (TE-SAT report).

According to the procedure set out in ENFOPOL 41 REV 2 the draft consists of documentation and analyses made by Europol on the basis of information on terrorist incidents forwarded by Member States using the special bulletin and annual contributions forwarded by Member States containing general, no-confidential information.

In the drafting of the report Europol also has included open source information (indicated by the use of italics) and the expertise and experience of the Europol Counter-Terrorism Unit.

The draft TE-SAT report covers the period from October 2001 to October 2002.

After approval in the Working Party of Terrorism the TE-SAT report will be forwarded to the Article 36 Committee. The Article 36 Committee will be asked to approve submitting the TE-SAT report to COREPER/Council and recommend that the Council takes note of the TE-SAT report.

According to paragraph 17 of the conclusions of the Council (Justice and Home Affairs) on 20 September 2001 the TE-SAT report will be forwarded to the European Parliament.

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# **EUROPOL**

## **TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION:**

### **SITUATION AND TREND REPORT (TE-SAT)**

**October 2001- Mid-October 2002**

The Hague, 14 November 2002

File number 2566-221

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## **1. Introduction**

The objective of this report is to outline the terrorism situation in Europe over the last twelve months and analyse the trends established. The report is intended to inform the European Parliament on the phenomenon of terrorism in the Member States.

An overview of terrorist activities carried out by domestic groups within the EU is offered in its first part. The second part focuses on international terrorist activities affecting the EU.

This is an open report.

## **2. Executive summary**

ETA continued its terrorist activity in France and Spain and carried out numerous attacks in Spain. Despite the extensive cooperation between Spanish and French authorities and the successful operations that were carried out both in those countries, the group maintains its operational capability.

The Northern Ireland peace process was jeopardized when compromising documents were found during the search of Sinn Féin premises at Stormont, causing a crisis that ultimately brought about the suspension of the Northern Ireland Executive. RIRA was the most active terrorist group, both in Northern Ireland and on the British mainland. Various terrorist groups continued activities such as pipe bombings, punishment beatings and shootings, which occurred regularly alongside organised criminality such as smuggling and racketeering.

Corsican nationalist terrorist groups have committed a large number of attacks mostly in Corsica, and some on mainland France.

Anarchist terrorism is still active in parts of the EU: In Spain, Italy, Greece and Germany they pose a real threat.

Spanish left-wing group Revolutionary Armed Groups First of October (GRAPO), which carried out four armed robberies, suffered a serious setback when its management structure was dismantled in coordinated French-Spanish operations.

In Italy, Red Brigades for the construction of a Combatant Communist Party (BR-PCC) killed an economic adviser of the Minister of Labour. Several leading and militant members of this group were arrested in Zurich, Paris and Buenos Aires. The Revolutionary Front for Communism claimed responsibility for two failed bomb attacks. A bomb attack against the Ministry of the Interior in Rome remains unclaimed. The left-wing group November 17, which was considered to pose the most important terrorist threat in Greece, was dismantled. 18 members of the group were arrested and the entire operational equipment of the terrorist organisation was seized in two caches in Athens. This group was responsible for the murder of the British military attaché in Athens, two years ago.

Right-wing terrorism has not been reported in the Member States. Individual actions are not discarded.

Concerning Islamic terrorism, no major terrorist attack occurred within the European Union. A suicide attack was prevented in December 2001 when the so called "shoe bomber" was overpowered by passengers of American Airlines flight 063. A number of cells that were preparing attacks within the E.U were dismantled in Italy, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium UK, France and Spain. Worldwide, a number of attacks, such as those against a Synagogue in Djerba (Tunisia), a bus transporting French engineers in Karachi (Pakistan) and a French super tanker in Yemeni waters, were deliberately aimed at European Union citizens or interests.

The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) decided they would call themselves Kurdish Freedom and Democracy Congress (KADEK) and would finally stop their armed struggle. It appears that PKK/KADEK is strictly following this policy for the moment.

### **3. Terrorist activities within the EU**

#### **3.1 Separatist terrorism**

##### **3.1.1 Spain/ETA**

###### **3.1.1.1 Current situation**

Euskadi ta Askatasuna (ETA) was responsible for 30 terrorist attacks, resulting in 6 people killed and 170 injured -100 of them alone in a car bomb attack in Madrid.

The group maintained the same kind of targets: political representatives belonging to the Popular and the Socialist Party (town councillors), law enforcement officers, journalists, members of the judiciary, military personnel and businessmen. Terrorist attacks against businessmen aim at extorting what ETA calls “revolutionary tax”. Targeted journalists are blamed with maintaining a “pro-Spanish” or “imperialist” stance. Campaigns against tourist resorts also played a central role in the group’s strategy.

Coinciding with the events ending the Spanish Presidency of the European Union in Seville the 21 and 22 June 2002, ETA detonated 5 improvised explosive devices (IED) in different points of the Spanish territory, in a coordinated operation.

The modus operandi of this terrorist organisation did not change substantially during the period of time considered. In direct attacks against persons, light weapons were widely used again, causing 4 out of the 6 deaths. A wide variety of IEDs including under-vehicle IEDs (UVIEDs) and car bombs were used.

###### **3.1.1.2 Counter terrorist activity**

Important and successful law enforcement operations against ETA were carried out both in Spain and France, resulting in the arrests of the head of its political apparatus,

of two people responsible for terrorist training and of a significant number of terrorists who were either hiding in France in order to avoid the action of Spanish justice or were members of “reserve cells”.

### **3.1.1.3 Spain**

All areas of activity of the group were severely damaged by the counter terrorist operations, especially with the dismantlement of a number of operational cells in charge of actually performing the terrorist attacks:

- October 2001, Guipúzcoa;
- November 2001, Pamplona;
- November 2001, “Madrid Cell”;
- February 2002, 2 cells in Navarre;
- March 2002, “Donosti Cell” in San Sebastián;
- May 2002, dismantlement of the new “Madrid Cell”;
- June 2002, Valencia.

Operations directed against other structures of the group integrated in the “National Basque Movement of Liberation” (MLNV) were also important:

- October 2001, arrests of “Gestoras Pro-Amnistía”<sup>1</sup> leaders;
- April 2002, arrests of the leaders of “Segi”<sup>2</sup>;
- Operations against “front companies” of the ETA’s financial web.

### **3.1.1.4 France**

The following ETA members were arrested:

- October 2001, the person responsible for the so-called “Political Apparatus”, in charge of the strategic area of ETA;
- December 2001, two ETA members responsible for terrorist training;
- January 2002, six terrorists integrated in a so called “reserve group”, prepared to enter Spanish territory to start a terrorist campaign;

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<sup>1</sup> Organisation supporting ETA members in prison.

<sup>2</sup> Youth organisation.



- Various dates, significant number of ETA terrorists hiding in France to avoid the action of Spanish Justice.

Additionally, in July 2002, an important ETA weapons cache was discovered and a large amount of explosives and weapons was seized.

ETA members are showing an increasing level of resistance when confronting arrest in France. A number of French officers were shot and wounded.

### **3.1.1.5 Trends**

In spite of the success of counter terrorist operations, ETA still maintains a number of operational cells in Spain. These have the capability to launch terrorist campaigns in the short and medium term.

Since the aforementioned coordinated simultaneous bomb attacks last June, coinciding with the end of the Spanish Presidency of the EU, ETA has observed a “tactical stop” in order to restructure itself. The reason can be twofold:

- the harm inflicted on its structures by counter terrorist operations;
- motivations of a strategic nature closely linked to the political situation.

ETA resumed its violent activity with the attack on a Guardia Civil Post in Santa Pola (Alicante), consistent with the modus operandi and targets of previous attacks.

In France, ETA maintains its structures of leadership and logistics, in addition to reserve groups. These structures are staffed with increasingly younger activists who have emerged from the “street violence”. They are more radical but less technically skilled than previous generations of terrorists.

An increase in the number of attacks and victims in the short and medium term in ETA’s violent campaign in line with the previous two years is not expected. Selection of relevant strategic targets will have supremacy over the number of attacks to be carried out by the group.

ETA will try to maintain a climate of social tension and confrontation. Pressure and extortion against businessmen will be continued in order to secure critical financial resources.

### **3.1.2 Northern Ireland**

#### **3.1.2.1 General situation**

The Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) confirmed that it had witnessed a quantity of arms, ammunition and explosives being put completely beyond use. It also confirmed that contact would be maintained with the PIRA representative. As a result David Trimble, the First Minister in the devolved Northern Ireland Executive, returned to his post from which he had resigned in July because he was unhappy with the lack of PIRA progress on decommissioning.

*A second act of decommissioning was made known when, on 8 April 2002, the IICD issued a report stating that it had witnessed an event in which the IRA leadership had put a varied and substantial quantity of ammunition, arms and explosive material beyond use. The IICD made an inventory of the arms concerned which will be provided to the two governments when their task is completed. The IICD has again stated that it will continue discussion with the IRA representative in the pursuit of its remit. It will also hold discussions with the loyalist paramilitary groups. Dissident republicans, who do not recognise the Good Friday Agreement, remain outside the scope of the decommissioning issue.*

*On 4 October 2002 police officers searched the Sinn Féin offices at Stormont and seized a quantity of documents. As a result of further police action four people were charged in connection with alleged gathering by Sinn Féin of information likely to be of use to terrorists. This triggered a major crisis in the Peace Process and on 14 October the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland suspended the Executive (devolved government) with effect from midnight that day. At the end of October the PIRA issued a statement on its decision to withdraw co-operation from the IICD.*

*Apart from the political developments, the ochlocratic nature of life continues in some parts of Northern Ireland where there are frequent outbreaks of sectarian rioting. Pipe bombings, punishment beatings and shootings occur regularly alongside organised criminality such as smuggling and racketeering.*

### **3.1.2.2 RIRA**

The Irish Republican dissident terrorist group, the ‘Real’ IRA (RIRA), remains opposed to the current political peace process and committed to carrying out terrorist attacks both in Northern Ireland and on the British mainland. RIRA was responsible for the following attacks:

- 3 November 2001, an explosion in Birmingham – close to a busy railway station, pubs and clubs. Two police officers were injured.
- 8 February 2002, an attack at Magilligan Training Camp, Co Londonderry, Northern Ireland. A victim operated IED seriously injured a civilian.
- 7 June 2002, in Ballymena, Northern Ireland, a newly qualified, Catholic recruit to the Police Service of Northern Ireland was the target of an UIED. The recruit was uninjured.
- 1 August 2002, a victim-operated IED killed a civilian worker at a Territorial Army Centre in Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

However, during the period RIRA has suffered setbacks including the arrest of five of its members in connection with the Birmingham car bomb attack. On 26 July 2002 some of the families of the victims of the 15 August 1998 Omagh car bomb launched a civil action in the Republic of Ireland against five RIRA members whom they accuse of being behind the attack, which killed 29 and injured 220.

*In October 2002 there were signs of a schism within the RIRA when most of the RIRA prisoners at Portlaoise prison issued a statement calling on the RIRA Army Council to ‘stand down with ignominy’.*

### **3.1.2.3 CIRA**

On 16 December 2001 the Irish Republican dissident group the Continuity IRA (CIRA) was responsible for an explosive device which caused considerable damage to a Customs Office in Enniskillen.

*The CIRA, which is linked to Republican Sinn Féin and is opposed to the Good Friday Agreement, remains the only republican paramilitary organisation that has not declared a ceasefire.*

### **3.1.2.4 INLA**

The Republican dissident terrorist Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) carried out two murders: an ex-UDA prisoner on 29 October 2001 and on 12 December 2001 the civilian victim of a botched punishment shooting.

### **3.1.2.5 PIRA**

The Provisional IRA ceasefire declared in 1997 continued to hold, although the organisation has been criticised for serious breaches. There were some limited moves in October 2001 and April 2002 towards decommissioning of weapons.

*In July 2002 PIRA issued an historic statement in which it apologised for the deaths of non-combatants and for the distress to their families.*

### **3.1.2.6 UDA/LVF**

In October 2001 the Loyalist terrorist groups the Ulster Defence Association (UDA) and the Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF) were specified as having breached their self-declared ceasefires.

Since that date the UDA has been responsible for four murders and two attempted murders: a prominent local drug dealer on 3 December 2001; an ex-UDA quartermaster and self-confessed police agent on 12 December; sectarian murders of two Catholics on 12 January and 22 July respectively and two attempted sectarian murders in August 2002.

*In November 2002 the UDA and LVF issued a joint statement which said they had resolved a dispute which had prompted a number of shootings in the previous weeks.*

### **3.1.2.7 UVF**

*The UVF's links to Scotland became clearer in September 2002 when two men were jailed for crimes related to transporting explosives, fuses, detonators and ammunition from Scotland to Northern Ireland. The UVF is officially on ceasefire but has engaged in acts of violence including a feud with other loyalist groups.*

### **3.1.2.8 Law enforcement and judicial activity**

Police services in Ireland and the United Kingdom continue to investigate and disrupt the activities of dissident republicans and loyalists.

These investigations have resulted in the seizure of significant amounts of explosives and firearms for which a number of people have been sentenced or are in custody awaiting trial.

*The Dublin Special Criminal Court has prosecuted many people charged with "membership of an organisation styling itself the IRA or Oglagh na hEireann".*

The investigation into the Omagh bombing continues on both sides of the border. *In January 2002 one man was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment after being found guilty by the Dublin Special Criminal Court of conspiracy to cause the bombing.*

*In April 2002 the President of Sinn Féin declined to testify in US Congressional hearings into links between the PIRA and the Colombian FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). The three PIRA members arrested in Colombia in August 2001 are still awaiting trial on charges of providing terrorist training to FARC and travelling under false passports.*

*On 7 May 2002 three RIRA members were each sentenced in London for their part in an attempt by RIRA to procure arms from Slovakia.*

### **3.1.3 France**

#### **3.1.3.1 Corsica**

*Corsican nationalist groups have committed a large number of attacks, mostly in Corsica and some on mainland France.*

*A new group emerged, when on 20 October 2001 in a communiqué sent to a TV network, a «nameless» Corsican nationalist group claimed responsibility for four attacks in the island, including an unregistered attempted bomb attack (the device failed to detonate and was found following the communiqué).*

*On Saturday 30 March, ten hooded and armed men representing the so-called “nameless group” held a clandestine press conference near Corte, claiming responsibility for nine recent attacks (machine-gunning of administrative buildings or barracks and bomb attacks).*

*Apparently this new group is more radical than the rival FLNC.*

*Terror attacks:*

- *5 May 2002, a more powerful device went off in Marseilles late, damaging a tax office building, while several bomb attacks also occurred in Corsica on the same night;*
- *6 May 2002, an unexploded IED containing two kilograms of dynamite was found in the premises of an Army barracks in Paris;*

- *9 May 2002, the FLNC issued a communiqué claiming its responsibility for twenty-two attacks in Corsica and mainland France. The terrorist organisation says it is still intent on a negotiated peace process, but that the current political trend in France is still one of repression;*
- *25 September 2002, a powerful IED was found in a tax office building in Nice (French Riviera). FLNC claimed responsibility.*

### **3.1.3.2 Brittany**

*No terrorist activities linked to Breton Nationalist groups were reported.*

## **3.2 Anarchist terrorist movements**

### **3.2.1 Spain**

One attack against a social centre run by the Penitentiary Authority, two against Police Stations and a fourth one against a bank branch were reported. All attacks took place in different towns. No organisation claimed responsibility for them.

In October 2001 three activists allegedly responsible for the planting of a number of IEDs against dealers of Italian cars were arrested in Madrid.

Small anarchist violent groups integrated in a form of international network represent a real threat to Spanish institutions and interests both in Spain and abroad.

### **3.2.2 Italy**

The activity of the pro-insurrection wing of the anarchist movement has been characterised by the usual attempts, on the part of groups or single individuals, to pursue a strategy aimed at “destabilising the establishment” or to show solidarity with anarchists held in prisons, also through attacks and/or protest actions.

### **3.2.3 Greece**

*The anarchist movement is still active.*

*Anarchists have been responsible for minor arson attacks by using improvised incendiary devices, resulting only in material damage.*

*These actions have been carried out under different names and left-wing slogans, for example recently in sympathy with the imprisoned members of the organisation November 17.*

### **3.2.4 Germany**

In recent years, an increase of activities by left-wing groups has been reported. They commit arson and bomb attacks mainly at a regional level causing only material damage, using different organisation names.

In addition, the “militant group” (mg), which is linked to the anti-imperialistic spectrum, started a so-called militancy debate in the left-wing publication “Interim”. This debate was later joined by several autonomous groups. The subject of discussion is, among others, the armed struggle, including the planning of the fight against Western society. There is no evidence that the armed struggle has already started.

## **3.3 Crimes in furtherance of animal rights and environmentalism**

Radical militants of these movements have maintained their actions. Several successful law enforcement operations have been carried out in European Union countries.

### **3.3.1 Belgium**

Three members of the Animal Liberation Front received prison sentences ranging from 30 months to five years.



### **3.4 Bio terrorism**

*No case of bio terrorism has been reported within the European-Union. During the Anthrax crisis in the USA, a very large number of suspected cases were reported. None of these were proven to be genuine. A number of them were hoaxes. A campaign of hoaxes was launched in September 2002, before the 11 September anniversary, which targeted a number of American diplomatic representations.*

### **3.5 Cyber terrorism**

*No case of cyber terrorism has been reported.*

*According to a computer security firm, the pro-Islamic hacker group Unix Security Guards (USG) increased its activity tenfold in September 2002 to highlight the Palestinian cause and show solidarity with the Arab world as tensions rise in regard to the US conflict with Iraq.*

*The number of attacks for September 2002 reportedly was 11,080, bringing the total for the first nine months of 2002 to 42,185, a third more than the total for 2001.*

*Reportedly, out of the 110 victim countries in September 2002, the ones most attacked were the US (5,299), Brazil (905), Denmark (532), the UK (478) and Germany (406).*

### **3.6 Left-wing terrorism**

#### **3.6.1 Spain**

Partido Comunista de España –Reconstituído- / Grupos de Resistencia Antifascista Primero de Octubre (G.R.A.P.O.) : This organisation is anchored in its foundational principles established in 1975 in the political framework of a pre-constitutional Spain, with full respect of the strictest Marxist / Leninist orthodoxy.

Successful counter terrorist operations over the last years and the lack of social support have put the survival of the organisation at stake. The charisma of its leader is crucial for the life of the group.

Four violent actions were attributed to GRAPO with a common denominator: all were armed robberies against bank branches in different towns. In one case the robbery involved hostage taking. This fact clearly speaks about the desperate financial situation of the group. Coordinated law enforcement operations in France and Spain added to the desperation of its situation. The leadership structure was almost completely dismantled with the arrest of 16 members of the organisation in Paris, Madrid and Vitoria.

New members have been recruited from anarchist and “anti-establishment” extremist circles.

The current situation can be defined as a “transition period” where future developments can hardly be predicted. The activity maintained by the group over the 27 years of its existence is expected to decline.

### 3.6.2 Italy

Italy continues to be affected by left-wing terrorism:

- *26 February 2002, a bomb exploded near the Ministry of the Interior in Rome;*
- *19 March 2002, Marco BIAGI, an economics adviser of the Minister of Labour, was murdered in a terrorist attack in the centre of Bologna. Responsibility was claimed by “Red Brigades for the construction of a Combatant Communist party” (BR-PCC);*
- *30 July 2002, under the name “Revolutionary Front for Communism”, a left-wing group claimed responsibility for two failed bomb attacks in Milan and Monza.*

*Several leading and militant members of Red Brigades for the Construction of a Fighting Communist party, (BR-PCC) were arrested in Zurich, Paris and Buenos Aires.*

This group, which has claimed responsibility for the murders of two government advisers in 1999 and 2002, poses the main left-wing terrorist threat in Italy

Incidents unlikely to be ascribed to terror groups are symptoms of the activism and political ferment of some milieus that are potentially able to resume the “armed struggle”, as outlined in the Red Brigades’ programme.

### **3.6.3 Greece**

Since 29 June 2002, an important breakthrough in the investigation of Revolutionary Organisation 17 November has taken place regarding left-wing terrorism in Greece.

The investigation has resulted in the arrest of 18 members of the organisation and the disclosure of caches in two apartments in the centre of Athens.

Inside the caches police found and seized almost the entire operational equipment of the terrorist organisation, including a considerable number of weapons, explosive devices, rockets, hand grenades and other material, which are considered to be evidence against the alleged members of 17 November.

The group was considered to pose the most important terrorist threat in Greece. It carried out a total of 120 attacks, including 23 murders, a number of rocket and bomb attacks and banks robberies since 1975.

## **3.7 Right-wing terrorism**

National or cross border right-wing terrorist groups have not been identified within the last year. Some right-wing movements have taken on a firm stance regarding the support of the Palestinian population, to be interpreted as a way of expressing their anti-American and anti-Semitic views.

More generally it appears, however, that the risk of a serious attack with right-wing motivation committed by a single person still exists.

*On 14 July 2002, a 25-year old French student with close links to the right-wing group "Unité Radicale" was arrested while attempting to shoot the French President Jacques Chirac during the annual Bastille Day parade. While this has been established to be an individual act, the group "Unité Radicale" has been banned.*

## **4. International terrorism**

### **4.1 Islamic extremist terrorism**

#### 4.1.1 General situation

No major terrorist attack occurred within the European Union. However, significant attacks took place worldwide, targeting Western interests, the latest being the bombing in Bali and the hostage taking in a Moscow theatre.

That no major attack occurred within the European Union might be the result of increasingly tight security awareness and of the disruption of a number of terrorist cells. A suicide attack was prevented in December 2001 when the so called “shoe bomber” was overpowered by passengers of American Airlines flight 063.

A number of cells that were preparing attacks within the E.U were dismantled.

Worldwide, a number of attacks were deliberately aimed at European Union citizens or interests. For example the suicide attacks against a Synagogue in Djerba (Tunisia) in April, against a bus transporting French engineers in Karachi (Pakistan) in May and against a French super tanker in Yemeni waters in October.

A number of law enforcement operations have been conducted against Islamic terrorist groups or cells and their support networks. From these operations a new tendency has been identified within the Islamic extremist groups. They appear to be focusing less on national goals. Although different in origin and purpose, they are now seen to collaborate and provide mutual assistance in terms of logistic support, financing and propaganda. Islamic terrorist cells in Europe appear to be involved in a number of criminal activities including credit card fraud to finance their activities.

A large number of Islamic activists have fought in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Chechnya and Kashmir; some of them were specially trained for terrorist operations. A number of these have left combat zones and settled throughout Europe.

Islamic terrorists are not concerned by borders. They use forged documents, which enable them to travel worldwide with little restrictions, if any. They are up to date in the latest techniques in the field of communications and make extensive use of the Internet and of satellite telephone, enabling distant control of operations and real time transmission of orders.

#### **4.1.2 Law enforcement and judicial activity**

In the aftermath of 11 September, enquiries have been conducted with three main objectives:

- Identification and neutralisation of the support networks in Europe which assisted both the hijackers who committed the September 11 attacks and the suicide bombers who killed Ahmed Shah MASOOD<sup>3</sup>;
- Identification and disruption of Islamic extremist cells in order to prevent terrorist attacks either within or outside the European Union;
- Financial investigations to identify fund raising sources of the Islamic terrorist networks and cut them.

##### **4.1.2.1 Austria**

No incident related to Islamic terrorism was reported.

##### **4.1.2.2 Belgium**

Belgium law enforcement has been working on the following main topics:

- The “BEGHAL network”, which was reportedly preparing a suicide attack against either the US Embassy in Paris or the Kleine Brogel Military base in Belgium;

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<sup>3</sup> Leader of the Northern Alliance murdered in Northern Afghanistan on 9 September 2001.

- Identification of the support network which assisted the suicide bombers who murdered Ahmed Shah MASOOD. The two suicide attackers posing as journalists travelled using Belgium passports stolen from Belgium Consulates in France and in The Netherlands.

#### **4.1.2.6 Denmark**

*One Danish citizen is in custody in Guantanamo (Cuba), after he was reportedly arrested in Afghanistan by US troops.*

#### **4.1.2.4 Finland**

*No Islamic related terrorist incident was reported.*

#### **4.1.2.5 France**

*Law enforcement activities related to Islamic terrorism carried out by French authorities were reportedly as follows:*

- *September 2001, police arrested a number of alleged Islamic militants suspected of planning a suicide attack against the US Embassy in Paris;*
- *December 2001, follow up enquiries after the foiled suicide attack by the so called “shoe bomber”. A number of Pakistan nationals were interviewed in April and June on suspicion of having provided him food and shelter;*
- *January 2002, two men were arrested on suspicion of having provided support to the suicide bombers who killed Ahmed Shah MASOOD;*
- *February 2002, three men of Algerian origin, one of them being a French citizen, were arrested on suspicion of being linked to the “Frankfurt network”;*
- *September 2002, investigations were ongoing after the discovery of a small stick of plastic explosives, found during a custom check aboard a Royal Air Maroc aircraft in Metz-Nancy airport.*

#### 4.1.2.6 Germany

German law enforcement authorities have been investigating the Islamic extremists group formed around the so-called “Hamburg cell”, which was directly linked to some of the suicide attackers who committed the 11 September attacks.

Three suspects directly involved in the attacks had lived in Hamburg. Other members of the cell involved in the planning and the financing of the attack were identified and arrested in Germany and Pakistan.

Follow-up enquiries were also conducted on the “Frankfurt network”.

Since April 2002 police have been investigating links in Germany to the suicide attack on the El-Ghriba Synagogue on Djerba (Tunisia). Investigations into four suspects were launched. There is evidence of connections to the Al Qaeda network.

In April 2002, 13 suspects were arrested in the course of the investigations into members of the Sunnite-Palestinian “Al Tawhid” group in Germany. The German cell of the group was planning an attack against a Jewish or Israeli target in Germany or Europe.

*Further information related to law enforcement activities against Islamic terrorism:*

- *October 2001, police in Munich arrested a suspect for his alleged involvement in the Al-Qaeda network. The suspect was extradited to Italy;*
- *June 2002, German police intensified their investigation into a Syrian-born suspect in Hamburg who is said to have had business relationships with leading members of al-Qaeda dating from 1995. His company was the first private business to have assets frozen by the U.S. Treasury Department on suspicion of links to the 11 September attacks;*

*July 2002, Stuttgart police arrested an Algerian national who is said to be a high-ranking member of the “Armed Islamic Group” (GIA) , who had been sentenced in absence by a Paris court for his involvement in the attempted assassination of an Imam in Paris in 1998.*

#### **4.1.2.7 Greece**

Greek law enforcement agencies have not identified foreign terrorists.

#### **4.1.2.8 Ireland**

*Travel documents seized in September and October 2001 in Dublin have reportedly led to a connection with a business man that the American Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) believes is linked to the financing of the 11 September attacks.*

#### **4.2.1.9 Italy**

Italy reported concern about Mujahidin<sup>4</sup> of different origin or nationalities now associating with religion as a common denominator.

No important incidents ascribable to international terrorist groups have been recorded in Italy over the last months. However, information acquired so far indicates that Islamic terrorists might also regard European countries as possible bases for serious attacks, mainly targeting US, Israeli and Western interests, with particular reference to political and economic institutions.

Police efforts in investigations and prevention activities turned out to be successful as they resulted in the arrest of a number of individuals allegedly belonging to Islamic extremist groups which are close or linked to bin Laden’s international network. These individuals were charged with forgery, crimes against property and other offences.

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<sup>4</sup> Arabic name given to fighters involved in a Holy War in the name of Islam.



Detailed law enforcement activity:

- *October 2001, an Egyptian national was reportedly arrested while travelling hidden in a container on a ship bound for Canada. Allegedly, documents related to airports in Canada, Egypt and Thailand were found in possession of the suspected al Qaeda terrorist;*
- *November 2001, Italian authorities closely monitored road traffic, fearing a truck-bomb attack which could have targeted a tunnel;*
- *December 2001, a raid on an apartment in Turin reportedly led to the discovery of a workshop for forged documents. Reportedly forged documents and passports from Morocco and other Arab countries were found;*
- *February 2002, four Moroccan nationals were arrested in Rome and found in possession of 4.4 kilograms of potassium ferro-cyanide and photocopies of maps of the city water supply system and of the US Embassy area;*
- *March 2002, Italian police arrested seven men allegedly linked to al Qaeda, on suspicion of planning attacks in Rome. During the same month, the US Embassy issued a threat warning about a risk of attack against US citizens or facilities in Venice, Florence, Milan and Verona;*
- *May 2002, Italian police arrested five people including four Tunisian citizens suspected of being involved in petty crimes and narcotics trafficking to finance Muslim guerrilla groups;*
- *May 2002, a 30 kilogram gas canister was found burning in the subway of Milan. According to Italian and Arabic inscriptions found nearby, this incident might have been a failed Islamic terrorist attack;*
- *June 2002, a plot by Algerian Islamic terrorists of the Groupe Salafiste pour la Prédication et le Combat (GSPC) to bomb the Bologna's San Petronio Basilica was reportedly foiled;*
- *July 2002, seven people from North Africa and one from Romania were reportedly arrested in Milan on suspicion of supplying false documents to the alleged European logistic chief of al Qaeda;*

- *August 2002, police reportedly arrested a Kenyan national travelling on a false Belgium passport. The man is reportedly suspected of being involved in arms trafficking on behalf of al Qaeda;*
- *August 2002, police reportedly arrested five men including four Moroccans on suspicion of preparing an attack against the San Petronio Basilica in Bologna;*
- *August 2002, Italy reportedly froze 25 bank accounts belonging to 11 individuals and 14 companies;*
- *September 2002, police in Sicily reportedly announced that they had arrested 15 Pakistanis on charge of conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism. They had been taken in custody in August from a ship intercepted by the Coast Guard;*
- *October 2002, police reportedly arrested four Tunisian nationals on suspicion of belonging to al Qaeda network.*

#### **4.1.2.10 Luxemburg**

No Islamic extremist related incident or Islamic terrorist group activities were reported by Luxemburg law enforcement agencies.

Considering the financing of terrorism, a number of Bank accounts have been frozen and others put under strict surveillance.

#### **4.1.2.11 The Netherlands**

Islamic terrorism related activities:

- *January 2002, two young Dutch Muslims were killed in Kashmir by security guards during an alleged attempted attack;*
- *April 2002, Dutch police reportedly searched five homes and arrested ten men suspected of belonging to the Algerian GSPC. Four were held in custody on suspicion of providing false passports, money and housing to members of the GSPC;*
- *June 2002, Dutch police arrested a suspected GSPC member in Groningen;*
- *August 2002, 12 men were arrested on suspicion of financing al Qaeda and recruiting fighters for Holy War. Seven of them reportedly remained in custody;*

*August 2002, police enquiries reportedly established that some money withdrawn from a mosque bank account in Eindhoven was allegedly transferred to the US to pay for September 11 attackers flying lessons.*

#### **4.1.2.12 Portugal**

No Islamic terrorism related activities were reported.

#### **4.1.2.13 Spain**

Operations conducted against Islamic extremists:

- January 2002, in continuation of operation “Datil”, which had been initiated the previous year, two individuals were arrested in Hospitalet (Barcelona), and important documentation and computer equipment were seized;
- April 2002, an Algerian national was arrested in Sant Joan d’Espí (Barcelona) on suspicion of being an important figure in the financing of al Qaeda;
- April 2002, in continuation of operation “Datil”, a man of Syrian origin was arrested for his alleged involvement in financing Islamic terrorist groups including al Qaeda in a number of countries;
- July 2002, four men of Syrian origin were arrested in Madrid and Castellon. One of them had already been arrested in April. These arrests were made on suspicion of financing terrorism. All these men were allegedly linked to the Muslim Brotherhood;

*A number of enquiries were conducted after the 11 September to trace the contacts of Mohamed ATTA one of the suicide hijackers who travelled to Spain in January and July 2001.*

#### **4.1.2.14 Sweden**

Incidents:

- *12 December 2001, Sweden extradited two Egyptian Islamic Jihad activists accused of having committed terrorist acts;*

- *A Swedish national of Arab origin was identified as being in custody in Guantanamo (Cuba);*
- *July 2002, the United States decided to remove two Swedish citizens of Somali descent from the list of people suspected of being linked with bin Laden. Both were involved in so-called “Somali money transfer” operations and had had their assets frozen by the UN Sanctions Committee;*
- *29 August 2002, a Swedish national of Tunisian origin carrying a pistol concealed in his luggage was arrested on suspicion of planning to hijack a plane bound from Sweden to the United Kingdom. He was later released.*

#### **4.1.2.15 United Kingdom**

United Kingdom reported the following events:

- January 2002, eight men were arrested in Leicester; a further two were arrested and charged with offences under the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT). Another man was arrested in London the following day. The January arrests took place as part of an ongoing investigation into the contacts of two other Leicester - based individuals arrested in September 2001, who have since been charged under the TACT;
- June 2002, a North African Islamic militant was arrested in London and charged with fraud-related offences;

September 2002, 14 men were arrested in London. Nine were detained under the TACT; two have been charged. A further individual was arrested on 26 September and has also been charged under the TACT.

## **4.2 Separatist terrorism**

No terrorist attacks in this international field were reported in the European Union.

*During a congress in April 2002 the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) decided they would call themselves Kurdish Freedom and Democracy Congress (KADEK) and would finally stop their armed struggle. It appears that PKK/KADEK is strictly following this policy for the moment.*